

Chapter 2

Concepts and Issues

This year, the U.S. begins another Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), which will comprehensively assess defense needs including: strategy, force structure, and modernization. In the process, defense analysts will focus on right sizing the defense establishment to match the resources available. As part of the QDR, the Military Services will articulate their visions and develop the necessary programmatic and budgetary blueprints to meet anticipated future national security challenges. As America's premier force in readiness, the Marine Corps is well positioned for the challenges of the 21st century. ***The Marine Corps Vision*** and ***Marine Corps Strategy 21*** will ensure that its well established "911" role will remain relevant in the execution of the National Military Strategy.

Public debate on policy and resource issues raised by the QDR is integral to consensus building and the defense decision process. It is an important means of ensuring an acceptable, economical, and capable defense posture. To this end, this chapter presents those key Marine Corps concepts, issues, and positions that will be important to the debate.